



## CONNECTICUT

**TESTIMONY OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS (NFIB)  
BY  
ANDY MARKOWSKI, CONNECTICUT STATE DIRECTOR  
CONCERNING  
HB-5713, AAC THE INCLUSION OF LABOR HISTORY IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL  
CURRICULUM  
BEFORE THE  
LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 31, 2013**

*A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB is Connecticut's and the nation's leading small-business association. In Connecticut, NFIB represents thousands of members and their employees and membership is scattered across the state and ranges from sophisticated high technology enterprises to single-person "Mom & Pop" shops that operate in traditional ways. NFIB's mission is "To promote and protect the right of its members to own, operate, and grow their businesses." On behalf of those small- and independent- job-providers in Connecticut, I offer the following comments:*

**NFIB/Connecticut has concerns with HB-5713, and suggests rejection.** More than a quarter of small business owners in America report that it is difficult for them to find qualified employees, even in a depressed economy. Yet this bill seems to clutter up the public school curriculum in Connecticut with a mandatory history of organized labor. That idea flunks the common sense test, and will only further burden our cities, towns and property taxpayers with this unnecessary mandate.

Small employers often cite that a problem with our public education system is that it is not producing enough people with the critical skills that our economy need. They feel that the purpose of the public education system is to prepare students for life in the workforce. Small business owners see young people every day who emerge from the public school system without the basic skills necessary get a job, support themselves and someday perhaps even start their own businesses. What is troubling about this legislation is that it ignores the real problems in the curriculum.

Furthermore, while the bill mandates the history of organized labor, it mentions nothing about the free-market economy that made America the mightiest and most prosperous country on Earth. The superiority of the free-enterprise system over any other form of economy is the central lesson of the last hundred years. Let the professional educators, school boards and parents determine what our kids need to learn.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

National Federation of Independent Business — CONNECTICUT  
304 W. Main Street, #205 • Avon, CT 06001 • 860-248-NFIB • • [www.NFIB.com/CT](http://www.NFIB.com/CT)